

The Statement of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

At the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science, Technology and Applications and the Technical Cooperation Programme

Delivered by

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Your Excellences, the Co- Chairs of the Conference from the Republic of Ghana and the Republic of Finland.

Your Excellency, Mr. Rafael Grossi, Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Honorable Ministers and Distinguished Delegates.

First and foremost, I would like to extend my gratitude to the Republic of Ghana and the Republic of Finland for Co-Chairing this Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science, Technology and Applications and the Technical Cooperation Programme. I wish them great success in leading the work of this conference, which underscores the significance of international cooperation in enhancing the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and the pivotal role of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in improving the capabilities and efficiencies of its member states.

Your Excellences Co-Chairs,

The Kingdom emphasizes the significance of this conference theme as one of the principal objectives for which the IAEA was established, as enshrined in its statute. This significance stems from the critical role of nuclear sciences, technologies, and their applications in addressing global challenges and supporting sustainable development goals. We appreciate the vital role of the IAEA in bridging gaps and overcoming obstacles to promote the deployment of peaceful nuclear technologies. In this regard, we acknowledge the invaluable efforts of the Agency under the leadership of its Director-General, Mr. Rafael Grossi, through various pioneering programs, initiatives, and activities that contribute to enhancing diverse developmental fields such as energy generation, food security, and healthcare, thereby improving quality of life and benefiting communities as a whole.

Your Excellences Co-Chairs,

We are all aware of the key role of the IAEA's technical cooperation programme as a mechanism to broaden access to peaceful nuclear technologies and transfer knowledge and expertise to member states. We call for the alignment of this program with the needs and priorities of member states, with emphasis on developing countries. We would also like to reaffirm the inherent and inalienable right of member states to peaceful uses of nuclear energy, in accordance with Article IV of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Moreover, we emphasize the importance of the Agency's role in enabling member states to build their scientific and technical capacities, thus contributing to the progress and prosperity of the peoples of the world.

Your Excellences Co-Chairs,

Recognizing the vital role of nuclear energy in achieving social and economic development, the Kingdom is keen to utilize nuclear energy and its applications for peaceful purposes. We are continuing to implement our national nuclear energy project in all its components, aiming for

sustainable national development, in accordance with national requirements and within the framework of international commitments.

The Kingdom greatly values the essential role played by the Agency through its technical cooperation program in building capacities and transferring knowledge to member states. In this context, the Kingdom is working on developing national technical cooperation projects across multiple fields such as health, industry, environment, and nuclear energy. The Saudi delegation appreciates the activities and programs offered by the Agency to enhance the technical capabilities of its member states and to elevate knowledge levels, opening new avenues for international cooperation across various fields. The Kingdom believes that investing in national talents and competencies is the key to successfully utilizing nuclear applications to achieve sustainable development, and we look forward to enhancing cooperation with the Agency in this area to achieve our common objectives.

Your Excellences Co-Chairs,

Based on the Kingdom's belief in the importance of the role of nuclear sciences and technologies in confronting development challenges and meeting the needs of various national sectors and the significance of enhancing partnership with the Agency, the Kingdom signed the Country Framework Programme (CPF) for the period of 2024-2027 with the Agency this year, which serves as a guiding framework for technical cooperation between the Kingdom and the Agency, it identifies national developmental priority areas that nuclear technology will be harnessed for to address various developmental issues in ways that benefit our nation. In this context, the Kingdom's delegation expresses gratitude to the Technical Cooperation Department for their collaboration in achieving this milestone and for their valuable efforts in supporting the Kingdom's projects and meeting its national needs.

Additionally, the Kingdom's delegation thanks the Agency for its efforts in implementing key initiatives in the fields of nuclear sciences and technologies to tackle global challenges, such as the ZODIAC and Rays of Hope initiatives, as well as its efforts in modernize the Agency's laboratories (ReNuAL2). The Kingdom has contributed to supporting these initiatives, recognizing their importance in enhancing global health security and development.

Thank you, Your Excellences Co-Chairs, and Distinguished Delegates. I hope the work of this conference will be crowned with success and achievement.